

Political Science 660—African Politics

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Sections: Friday 11-11:50, Social Science 6125
 Friday 12:05-12:55, Ingraham 216
 Friday 1:20-2:10, Chamberlin 2135
 Friday 2:25-3:15, Social Science 6117

Office Hours: Tuesday 11am—12pm, Ingraham 201A
 Thursday 11am—12pm, Ingraham 201A
 Or by appointment

Expectations

Discussion sections provide students with the opportunity to raise questions, concerns and make comments on the contents of the course lectures and the readings. I will refer to the readings and lectures but I will not recapitulate them. Your attendance at discussion sections is required and I will be taking attendance at each section. Poor attendance will be reflected in your grade, as outlined on the course syllabus. You are expected to come to discussion section having attended the lectures for the course and having completed the readings. Each student should come to section prepared with either a question or a comment on the readings to be shared with the class. Each week I reserve the right to call on randomly selected students to share their question or comment during discussion.

Participation is very important, both in terms of your grade but also in terms of what will enable you to get the most from this course. Active participation involves not only contributing thoughts and ideas but also actively listening to your fellow students. Please be respectful of me and your fellow students and their opinions.

Requirements, Grading and Deadlines

As outlined in the course syllabus, there are five requirements for the course.

1. *Section Attendance, Leading Discussion and Participation: 10%*

Perfect attendance will work best for you and enable you to get the most from this course. However, I understand that things happen and so for grading purposes you will be allowed to miss two discussion sections without penalty. Each subsequent absence will be penalized at the rate of 1 point per absence.

A pair of students will be responsible for sending out three discussion questions on the reading(s) for the week by 5:00 pm the day before their section. These students will explain/clarify their questions for five minutes at the beginning of class and should answer questions that their classmates might have regarding their questions. Students must come prepared to engage with these questions in section.

2. *Wiki: 10%*

Wiki contributions and your country/topic expert page will account for 10% of your overall grade.

3. *Midterm Examination: 25%*

This exam will be in class on March 12th.

4. *Final Examination: 25%*

Scheduled for May 13th.

5. *Paper: 30%*

Paragraph Summary of paper due February 12th.

The paper is due at the beginning of class on April 28th.

Students must write one paper, which will be eight to ten pages in length.

Late papers will NOT be accepted. For every page over the ten page maximum, 1 point will be deducted. Papers should be written in Times New Roman, 12 point font with one inch margins all around and double-spaced. Papers should also include page numbers.

If you believe there has been grading error, I strongly encourage you to come and speak with me, but only under the following conditions:

1. At least two days have elapsed since you received your grade
2. No more than two weeks have elapsed since you received your grade
3. You provide in writing an explanation of what you think was wrong with the grading and why you think it should be reconsidered
4. You are polite and respectful.

Email Policy

I will do my best to respond to email messages quickly and thoroughly. However, emails received after 9pm will not be answered until the next day and emails received over the weekend will not be answered until Monday. I do this not to be unattainable but to ensure that I can still have a life! To make sure I see your message, please make sure that “660” is in the “subject” line so that it will be filtered to the proper mailbox. As I will be holding regular office hours each week, please use emails for questions which can be answered by a yes or no or a short sentence. If you have any concerns or problems during the course I strongly encourage you to come and speak with me during office hours or to make an appointment with me. And please be polite and respectful—so no “yo G” as your opening line!

Special Needs

If you have any special needs or circumstances, such as a learning disability or other health concern, please do not hesitate to speak with me and we can discuss suitable accommodations and assistance.

Honor Policy

A good rule of thumb on borrowing ideas:

Don't claim the ideas or words of someone else as your own. Do use the ideas and words of others to help develop your own. Do have friends read and comment on drafts of your papers. Always give explicit credit when you use anyone's exact thoughts or language, whether in paraphrasing or quoting them. Give an acknowledgement to someone who's helped you overall. Intellectual work is about developing and sharing your ideas, and it's about taking note of and praising other people who have shared good ones with you.

-Richard Wightman Fox, “A Heartbreaking Problem of Staggering Proportions,”
The Journal of American History (March 2004), 19.

Plagiarism is a serious offence and will be punished with a grade of zero on the plagiarized assignment. Disciplinary action will be taken in accordance with the guidelines of UW's Academic Misconduct policies. If you have any questions about correctly citing sources or when citation is necessary please contact the Writing Center, a writing handbook, or me.